

School Day, Week, Year

SCHOOL YEAR AND SCHOOL WEEK

1. The school fiscal year must begin on July 1 and end on June 30 (20-1-301).
2. The school district shall schedule a school term of at least the minimum aggregate hours, in accordance with state law (20-1-301 through 20-1-305 MCA).
 - a) 360 aggregate hours of pupil instruction for kindergarten.
 - b) 720 aggregate hours for grades 1 through 3.
 - c) 1,080 aggregate hours for grades 4 through 12.
 - d) Exception: 1,050 aggregate hours for graduating seniors.
3. A Saturday may not count as an instructional day unless it is used as a make-up day when an emergency has closed the school during the regular school week. In such emergencies, approval for holding school on a Saturday must be obtained from the local board of trustees (20-1-303 MCA).

STANDARD SCHOOL DAY

1. "A school day of pupil instruction must be at least 2 hours for kindergartens, at least 4 hours for grades 1 through 3, and at least 6 hours for grades 4 through 12. The number of hours in any one school day may be reduced at the discretion of the trustees if the total number of pupil instruction hours in the school year is not less than the minimum aggregate hours required in 20-1-301 MCA." (20-1-302 MCA)
 - a. Lunch time may not be counted toward meeting the standard school day nor minimum aggregate hours required.
 - b. "unstructured recess periods may **not** be counted as part of the mandated hours of pupil instruction. However, recess periods, for which there has been an identifiable effort to provide guidance and structure and which are directly or indirectly under supervision of the certified teacher, may be counted as pupil instruction under 20-1-101(11), 20-1-302 MCA and ARM 10.15.101(46)."
 - c. Although passing time between classes may be counted toward meeting the standard school day and the minimum aggregate hours required, passing time may not be counted as instructional time needed to meet the requirements of a "unit" of time. (ARM 10 55.902, 904-906)